

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:AOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 095271 TOSEC 100088

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMMAN DATED APRIL 20, 1976
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO JIDDA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2100

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT USCINCEUR SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS FOR JO SA US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) STATE 093532, (B) AMMAN 2070

1. I HAD ARRANGED TO TAK WITH RIFAI APRIL 19 IN CONNECTION
WITH HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AIR DEFENSE (REF A) PLAN WAS TO
SEE HIM FOR A FEW MINUTES FOLLOWING HIS MEETING TODAY WITH
SENATOR MATHIAS. MEETING WITH SENATOR WAS INTERRUPTED
WILL CALL FROM PALACE TO SEE KING SO MY TALK WITH RIFAI WAS
TRUNCATED. I DID HAVE TOME TO PASS ON TO RIFAI AS I NORMALLY DO
COPY OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KING ON HAWK (STATE 094162) ON
WHICH RIFAI SAID HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY KING.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION RIFAI SAID HE WANTED TO CORRECT
ONE THING KING TOLD ME. HE SAID JORDANIANS DID NOT
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AGREE TO A PHASED APPROACH IF IT MEANT CUTTING DOWN

THE SIZE OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BY OUR MILITARY AND THEIR MILITARY. I TOLD RIFAI THAT OUR APPROACH WAS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A FULL SYSTEM, BUT IN PHASES. RIFAI SATED TO PROTEST ABOUT THEIR NOT TAKING ONLY HALF A SYSTEM I TOLD RIFAI HE SHOULD RELAX ABOUT THIS AND WAIT TO SEE WHAT COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE CONTINUED WITH HIS REMAKRS ALONG THE SAME LINES, UT I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE WORKING EARNESTLY ON GETTING THE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN AND THATHE SHOULD UNDERSTAND OUR PHASED APPROACH WAS ON HE FUDING OF THE SYSTEM AND WAIT TO SEE WHAT COULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. I TOLD RIFAI THAT WE WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT WHAT HE SAID PUBLICLY IN THE UK ABOUT THE COSTS OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. HE IMMEDIATELY WENT ON THE DEFENSIVE SAYING "AND I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE MY VIEW KNOWN". MY EARLIER CONVERSTION WITH THE KING HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN MADE KNOWN TO HIM. HE TOLD ME THAT JORDAN HAS HIT SAUDIS HARD PUBLICLY WHILE THEY WERE IN THE US ON THE FUNDING QUESTION AND HE WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE SOME BALANCE BY TALKING ABOUT THE COSTS INCREASE. I SAID HE WAS ALL WRONG ON THE COSTS. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO AND THAT IN THE PAST WE HAVE GIVEN JORDN A \$255 MILLION FIGURE WHICH HAD THEN BEEN PASSED ON TO THE SAUDIS. I SAID I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THAT AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT HE COULD GIVE US ON WHERE THAT FIGURE CAME FROM BECAUSE IT WAS NEWS TOME.

4. I ASKED RIFAI TO LIHK AT A "NON-PAPER" WHICH I LEFT WITH HIM WHICH OUTLINED WHAT THIS EMBASSY HAD GIVEN JRDAN IN HE WAY OF INFORMATION ON THE COSTS OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. IF HE HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH HAT HE SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ME BECAUSE AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED THIS WAS THE CORRECT STORY. MEANWHILE IT DID NOT HELP IN WASHINGTON FOR HIM TO ACCUSE UNFAIRLY THE US OR THE CONGRESS OF EXCALATING THE COSTS WHEN THE UNITED STATES WAS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO WORK OUT THE PROBLEM WITH THE SAUDIS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT. AFTER MY TALK WITH THE KING YESTERDAY, THEY HAD CALLED HOME THEIR
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AMBASSADOR FROM SAUDI ARABIA WHO WOULD RETURN SHORTLY TO ASSURE THE SAUDIS THAT THEY WERE STILL INTERESTED IN THE DEAL AND TO FIND OUT WHEN THEY COULD GET THEIR \$300 MILLION OF WHATEVER ELSE THE SAUDIS COULD PROVIDE THEM.

5. SEPTTEL PROVIDES TEXT FOR DEPARTMENT AND JIDDA OF APPER WHICH I LEFT FOR RIFAI TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD PROVIDED TO JORDAN IN THE WAY OF INFORMATION

ON THE COSTS OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. PAPER ALSO BEING PROVIDED TO JORDAN ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN SHAKER. PAPER HAD AS ATTACHMENT TEXT OF LETTERS DATES 14 OCTOBER 1975 AND 19 DECEMBER 1975 FROM DEFENSE ATTACHE AMMAN TO LT GEN BIN SHAKER PROVIDING ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE FIGURES FOR THE HAWK SYSTEM.

6. COMMENT: FIGURE OF \$255 MILLION RIFAI MENTIONED IN PARA 3 ABOVE COULD REFER TO THE \$255 MILLION LETTER OF OFFICER '70") FOR PRIMARY HARDWARE COSTS FOR THE 14 HAWK BATTERIES. ALSO WHILE RIFAI SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN HE HAS THUS FAR BEEN DODGING US JOURNALISTS HERE WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SEE RIFAI ON HAWKS. PICKERING UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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